

STAT

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2012/06/28 :
CIA-RDP90G01353R001900060001-9

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CIA-RDP90G01353R001900060001-9



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Phone: (703) 351-2053

9 December 1988

Mr. Pete Hill

STAT

Dear Mr. Hill:

We are in receipt of your letter of 4 November, containing a copy of your letter of 4 September which, unfortunately, never reached us. We regret the delay in responding to your concerns. Judge Webster has asked me to review your letter and provide information to you.

State-sponsored terrorism includes, among other things, activity carried out by a government to hide terrorists within its borders, provide them with training, equipment or other resources, and give them passports or other documentation to facilitate their travel outside the sponsoring country. Terrorism--the use of mindless violence against innocent victims--usually takes the form of criminal activity.

Covert action is undertaken by the US government in furtherance of approved and accepted foreign policy. We are asked to undertake such activity, from time to time, because of the unique capabilities we maintain within our organization. Covert action is not terrorism, but rather includes practices that comply fully with US law.

I can assure you that any covert action undertaken by the CIA is carefully scrutinized and discussed before it is implemented. It requires that the President issue a written finding directing its use and careful briefing of the Intelligence Oversight Committees of the Congress. These measures ensure that the covert action is a sensible, practical and legal option for the US to use.

p-308-IR

Ltr to Mr. Pete Hill

Page 2

I suggest, if you continue to feel uncertain about covert action, that you write to the Oversight Committees of the Congress to obtain additional information. Their addresses are:

Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
211 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
Room H405
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Sincerely,

Public Affairs

STAT

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

ROUTING SLIP

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SUSPENSE

Date

Remarks

ES has no record of any previous correspondence transmitting Mr. Pete Hill's letter; or any previous correspondence from Mr. Hill.

STAT

ER 88-1610X/3

Executive Secretary
29 Nov '88

Date

3637 (10-81)

The American Legion National Headquarters

Executive Registry

88-1610X/3

11-23-88

Mr. Webster:

Mr. Hill's September 4 letter was forwarded to your office on September 17. Would appreciate your having someone in your office respond to Mr. Hill.

Thank you.

Mike La Bonne, Editor
The American Legion Magazine

P. O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206



P-308-1R


4 November 1988

William H. Webster, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
c/o the American Legion Magazine
700 N Pennsylvania St.
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Dear William Webster:

Two months ago I wrote you the enclosed letter, consequent upon reading your interesting article in the American Legion Magazine. Because I haven't received a response from you, I wonder whether you did not in fact receive my letter. Hence a copy is attached. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,


Pete Hill



STAT

4 September 1988

Copy

William H. Webster, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
c/o the American Legion Magazine
700 N Pennsylvania St.
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Dear William Webster:

In your interview in the September American Legion Magazine, I was particularly struck by your statement that state sponsored terrorism represents a challenge.

I didn't get a sense of what you included within the idea of "terrorism", and I'd like to ask you how you to define it, especially that which is state sponsored. You state that covert action is essential if we are to implement our foreign policy in helping revolutionary movements and countries we support. do you make distinctions between covert actions which the US (via the CIA) carries out and those which other countries carry out? If our covert actions result in the killing of people in countries with which we are not at war, can that be distinguished (in terms of what is and isn't terrorism) from such killings instigated by other countries - especially those with which we have significant disagreements?

I'm concerned about this matter because I read a lot about terrorism. I also hear a lot about "covert actions". How can I make distinctions?

You note that you are not free to talk about current covert actions, so I wonder whether you'd care to comment about some past ones, such as the de-stabilization of the governments of Chile, the Dominican Republic, Iran? (I selected these because they are well known and involve, I understand, the use of violence. I suspect that a lot of covert actions do not include uses of violence).

In explaining the role of covert operations you indicate that they are necessary for the carrying out of US foreign policy. This is also unclear to me. What - again in the past - are examples of US foreign policy that couldn't be implemented without covert actions? (and how did covert actions have crucial effect in achieving US foreign policy aims?).

I look forward to your response, as this is a matter I hold to be important to understanding our current situation in the world of the 1980's.

Sincerely,

Pete Hill




STAT

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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SUSPENSE

Date

Remarks

STAT

ER 88-3626X

Executive Secretary

23 Sept '88

Date

3637 (10-81)

LA-00 Jbd 6X



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Phone: (703) 351-2053

11 October 1988

Mr. Martin A. Witt
Computer Security Institute
360 Church Street
Northborough, MA 01532

Dear Mr. Witt:

Thank you for your recent letter to the Director of Central Intelligence.

We appreciate your support of the Agency and consider your words of encouragement to be an endorsement of all here who have dedicated their lives to the service of their country.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Public Affairs

STAT

P-308-1R

MARTIN A. WITT

STAT

Mr. William H. Webster
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Langley, VA

September 13, 1988

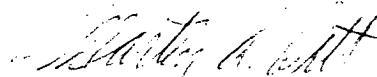
Dear Mr. Webster:

I just finished reading your comments in the interview article published in the September issue of the American Legion Magazine.

I wanted you to know that your candid comments were appreciated. Many American citizens too often neglect to write to Congressmen, Senators, etc., to make our opinions known. As a veteran, a Legionnaire and a citizen, I wanted you to know that the Central Intelligence Agency has my full support.

I believe that the CIA is doing the best possible job that can be done considering the rules and regulations under which it must operate. I have no doubts that the majority of CIA personnel are dedicated, courageous people. I only hope that one day most Americans will know about the untold sacrifices many of your employees endure each day.

Sincerely,



Martin A. Witt



P-308-15

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Letter to Mr. Michael D. LaBonne - Editor, The American Legion Magazine

FROM: William M. Baker *WB*
Director, Public Affairs

EXTENSION

2-7676

NO.

PAO 88-0305

DATE

31 August 1988

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

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FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

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P-308-15

31 August 1988

JUDGE:

Michael La Bonne, Editor of The American Legion magazine sent you two copies of the September 1988 issue (opposite) which contains an interview with you entitled, "Covert Operations: 'Some Things Can't Be Done in Public'." It begins on Page 24 and outlines your views on the need for covert operations as well as an explanation of the controls on such activities. I recommend that you sign the attached letter of thanks to the Editor, Michael D. La Bonne. We have circulated the article in our news clips.

STAT



Bill Baker



Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

06 SEP 1988.

Mr. Michael D. La Bonne
Editor, The American Legion Magazine
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-1055

Dear Mr. La Bonne:

Thank you for your letter of August 21, 1988 and the copies of The American Legion. It was a real pleasure to work with Jim Sites on this effort and I appreciate very much the care with which you presented the interview. This is an important message and I know it will reach an interested audience. I wish you continued success in your support for America's military veterans.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ William H. Webster

William H. Webster
Director of Central Intelligence

EXECUTIVE Registry

88-1610X/1



P. O. BOX 1055 · INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46206-1055 · (317) 635-8411

August 21, 1988

The Honorable William H. Webster
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Director Webster:

The American Legion Magazine is pleased to enclose three copies of your interview, "Covert Operations: 'Some Things Can't Be Done In Public,'" which is appearing in our September issue.

Thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to provide this enlightening interview. We're sure our readers will find it most informative.

Sincerely yours,

Michael La Bonne

MICHAEL La BONNE
Editor

Enclosure (3)



P. O. BOX 1055 · INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46206-1055 · (317) 635-8411

August 21, 1988

The Honorable William H. Webster
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

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Sincerely yours,

Michael La Bonne

MICHAEL La BONNE
Editor

Enclosure (3)

INTERVIEW

COVERT OPERATIONS

"SOME THINGS CAN'T BE DONE IN PUBLIC"

Criticized for its failures, yet unable to reveal most successes, the CIA seems to be in a Catch-22 situation. But congressional oversight committees "can vouch for our good work," says CIA Director William H. Webster.

American Legion Magazine: Have congressional restrictions arising from the Iran-Contra investigation seriously weakened the CIA and its operations abroad?

William Webster: Not so far. But there are several unnecessary proposals that would raise serious questions from our foreign counterparts and others who count on us to protect their confidentiality. I have given testimony on my views to various committees of Congress. I hope that these proposals will be substantially improved before they are passed, insofar as they concern our ability to function.

I don't think that the Iran-Contra investigation has resulted in changes that make it impossible for us to do our job. You have to remember that the CIA was not the principal focus of attention in that investigation — the National Security Council was, and its activities involved some members of the CIA. The rules that we have are good rules, and we continue to follow them scrupulously.

Q: So no major changes need to be made?

A: No. But we adopted several new procedures that are designed to better guide our officers in the field and at headquarters. Among them are clearer rules for congressional testimony and the reorganization of the inspector general's office. I think that these new procedures will increase the trust between Congress and the CIA. With that increased trust will come a better working relationship.

Q: It has been said that you can have either covert operations or congressional oversight, but not both. Is that true?

A: I don't think it is true that congressional oversight means that we cannot conduct covert activity. Congressional oversight can be very useful to us. If a covert action doesn't make sense to the representatives of the American people, it is very likely not going to make sense to the American people

when it becomes public — and that is where we've gotten into trouble in the past.

This doesn't mean that Congress tells us what to do or how to do it, but the oversight committees do have a consultative role. I think that we can work with them.

Q: Are you worried about leaks on Capitol Hill?

A: The more people who have to know about an operation, the more likely it is that there are going to be disclosures. Details on covert action and the identities of sources can be protected from normal congressional oversight. The intelligence committees' chairmen and vice chairmen have been quite helpful in keeping questions on those sensitive areas from becoming issues between us.

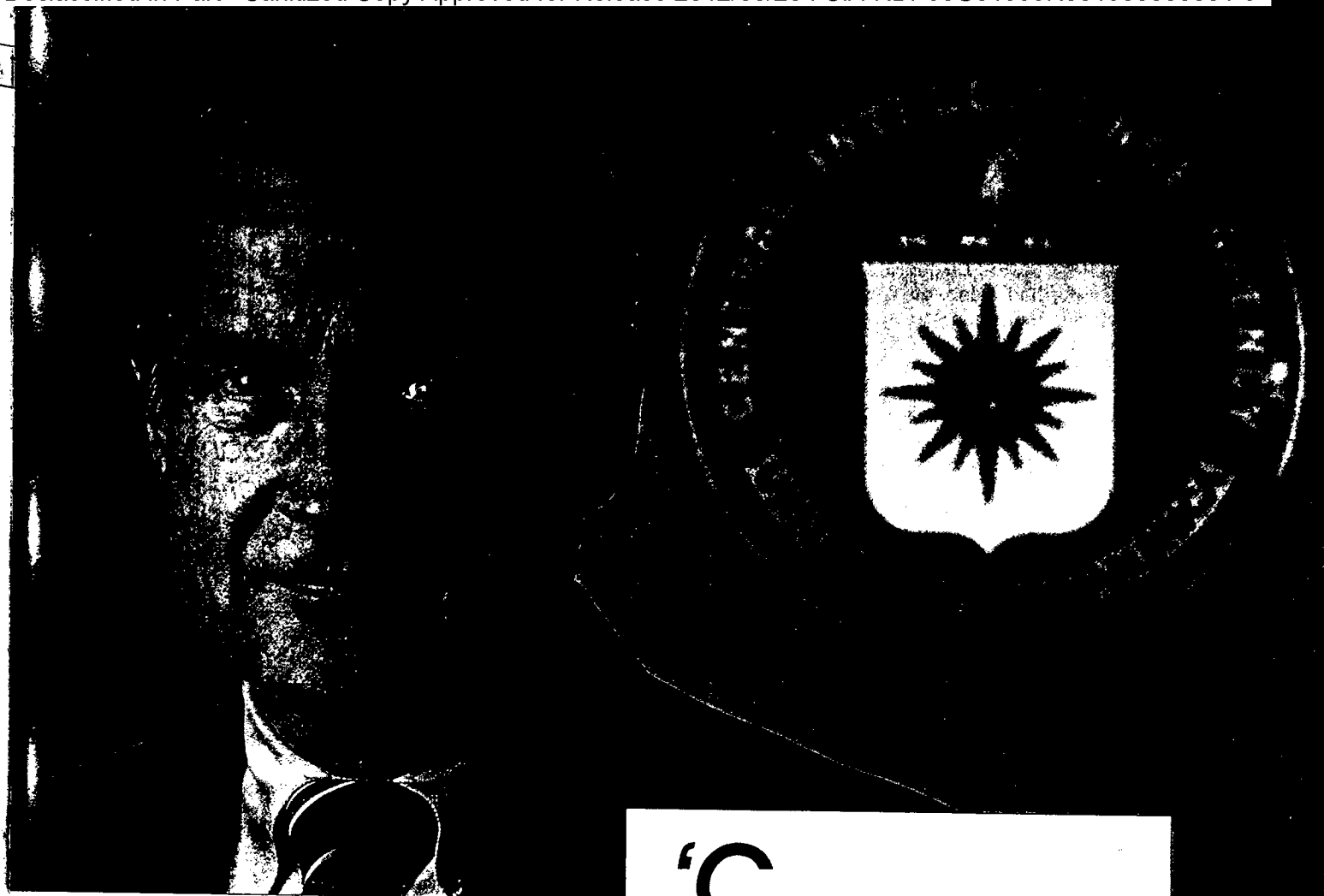
Q: Do you think covert operations are essential to U.S. security and interests?

A: Covert action is essential. Every president since Franklin Roosevelt has used it.

I want to emphasize that covert action represents less than 3 percent of our resources. But when we are called on to help an insurgent group that is seeking democratic progress in another country, or to protect a friendly country from hostile insurgent activities, it often is important that the role of the United States not be publicly known or acknowledged. Unless we are able to conduct covert operations, we cannot implement the foreign policy of this country on behalf of the insurgent movements and countries that we support.

Q: How can those operations be controlled so as to assure the public that they are in our interest and in accordance with our laws?

A: That's where the oversight committees come in. They are the surrogates for the American people and for the rest of Congress. We share important information with those committees; they then certify to Congress and the American



William H. Webster, a former director of the FBI, became director of the Central Intelligence Agency in May 1987.

people that we are doing what we should be doing, according to our Constitution.

Q: Are you concerned about CIA abuse of its powers?

A: I am not concerned about it, because I think it's very clear that we are conducting our work in accordance with our Constitution and our laws. Now, our laws don't follow us around the world, and we have to give some agents some flexibility. But those agents understand that everything they do must be in accordance with U.S. laws, executive orders and national-security directives.

Q: Why are people so afraid of covert operations?

A: Many people are afraid that any agency that conducts secret operations will do things that the public would not want it to do. It's a normal democratic suspicion of anything that is not open. But some things simply cannot be done in public, and collecting intelligence is one of them.

Q: The CIA has been called our front-line defense against the Soviet Union's undeclared war on America and other democracies. How is the CIA meeting this onslaught?

A: You are primarily talking about counterintelligence when you ask the question in that way. I think that the FBI has done an outstanding job of recognizing and dealing with hostile intelligence officers in this country. It is unfortunate that every time there is a successful counterintelligence

'CIA agents understand that everything they do must be in accordance with U.S. laws, orders and directives.'

effort, people wonder why it wasn't done sooner.

Around the world, the Soviets are seeking information from our embassies, our intelligence agencies and our military. It is our job, and that of the whole intelligence community, to provide greater protection for those who are defending our national security.

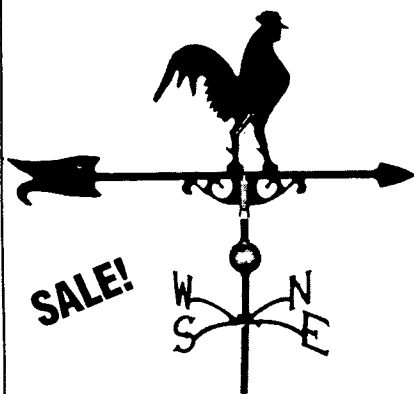
There is room for improvement. There have been some significant successes and some significant failures. The breach of security at our Moscow embassy is one of those failures. I have already reorganized our counterintelligence program for greater effectiveness and will support the counterintelligence work of the entire intelligence community.

Q: How is the CIA doing in combating terrorism?

A: The CIA has an effective counterterrorism center. We have had some significant successes that we cannot talk about, for obvious reasons, and I am satisfied that we are going about it in the right way.

Q: Is terrorism increasing or decreasing?

Please turn to page 62

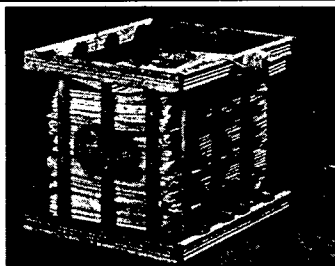
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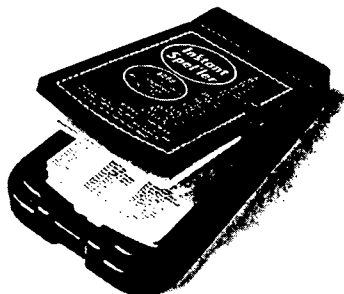
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Box 370, Tawas City, MI 48764

INTERVIEW

Continued from page 25

A: Well, terrorism has increased slightly over the past couple of years, but it has increased enormously over the past 10 to 15 years. The number of deaths is going up.

The use of terrorism by nations — state-sponsored terrorism — represents a formidable challenge to this country and the rest of the Free World. It is a way to get a cheap victory. Terrorists are taking airplane passengers hostage, blowing up official facilities and assassinating people in key places around the world.

Twenty-five percent of terrorist incidents involve U.S. citizens, property or institutions, so we are getting it full-bore. We need to cooperate with other freedom-loving countries in a common front against terrorism. This front has solidified in the past two years. Some mistakes we made in the Iran-Contra affair weakened it, but I think we've patched that problem. We are again working with our European allies to eliminate sanctuary for terrorists.

Q: Under Mikhail Gorbachev, the Kremlin apparently has shifted from a policy of diplomacy by intimidation to a more cooperative stance. Is this real, or are we simply facing a new, dangerous form of diplomacy by deception?

A: Several factors go into *glasnost* and *perestroika* in the Soviet Union. Kremlin rhetoric seems to be more reasonable and more non-confrontational, but behind the rhetoric stands one of the world's most formidable military establishments. There is no indication that the Soviet Union's aspirations have changed in any way.

We would deceive ourselves if we thought that our ability to negotiate with Gorbachev represented the end of Soviet expansion objectives. We don't want to kid ourselves about that.

Q: Do you believe that we have sufficient intelligence-gathering ability in the Soviet Union to ensure adequate verification of arms-control agreements?

A: That, of course, has been the subject of intense study and debate. I believe that we could provide reasonable estimates on which the policy-makers can make sound judgments on the INF Treaty.

START represents a significantly more formidable challenge to us. Confidence-building provisions such as on-site inspection are being discussed, but we do not yet have the certainty that I think Congress will require before any such treaty could be ratified.

Q: There have been reports that the Soviets are preparing to violate the ABM Treaty by deploying a nationwide anti-ballistic-missile system. Do you have any way of verifying that?

A: I'm not in a position to comment on that.

Q: Does criticism of the CIA affect agents' morale and effectiveness?

A: No one likes to be criticized. But I have been impressed not only by the quality of the men and women who work in this agency — by their dedication, courage and extraordinary gifts — but also by the quality of the young men and women who are electing to make intelligence their career. They are confident of the value of this work; they are comfortable with the difficulties that this work represents in their personal lives and the sacrifices that they are required to make. They are not bothered by criticism, because they know that the CIA is the "point man" for U.S. foreign policy. They see in this work not fame or fortune, but an opportunity to realize their highest aspirations for a safer and better world.

When you have that kind of outlook — not zealous or narrow, but with great capacity for intellectual growth — you understand that criticism comes with the territory.

Q: In a way, isn't being criticized a backhanded compliment to the agency?

A: I think so.

Q: What could Congress or the general public do to help the CIA do a better job of defending our way of life?

A: The congressional committees are in a position to reinforce the need for intelligence and to speak up for us, in terms of the quality of our work and our compliance with the laws. That would help.

We gave a thousand briefings to Congress last year. Some of our top people spend 25 percent of their time responding to congressional inquiries. If members of Congress would vouch for our good work, that might encourage the public to cooperate with us. □

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Executive Secretary

29 Aug 88

Date

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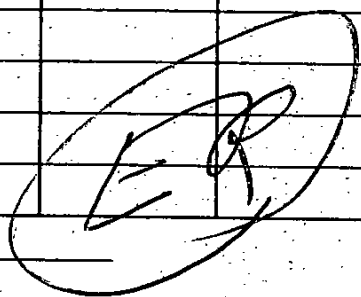
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Remarks

STAT

 Executive Secretary
29 Aug 88

Date

3637 (10-81)

Executive Registry

88-1610X/2

JAMES N. SITES

STAT

STAT

August 24, 1988

Dear Judge Webster,

I know you will want to note our interview with you beginning on P. 24. All at Region Headquarters thought it came out well, indeed. Hope it helps inform people better on the crucial job you and the Agency are doing ... for all of us.

Please accept my personal thanks for devoting so much time and effort to this project.

Till we meet again ...

All the best,

Jim Sites

~~EXECUTIVE SECRETARY~~

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Executive Secretary

23 Aug '88

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3637 (10-81)

Executive Registry

88-1610X/1



P. O. BOX 1055 · INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46206-1055 · (317) 635-8411

August 21, 1988

The Honorable William H. Webster
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Director Webster:

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Sincerely yours,

Michael La Bonne

MICHAEL La BONNE
Editor

Enclosure (3)



P-308-IR

THE AMERICAN LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

September 1988

TWO DOLLARS

To Care For
Him Who Shall
Have Borne The Battle'
P 42



AMERICA'S
SECRETS

HOW SAFE ARE THEY?

Webster: 'We Need Secrets'

I Pledge Allegiance...

The Moscow Summit

TOP SECRET

INTERVIEW

COVERT OPERATIONS

'SOME THINGS CAN'T BE DONE IN PUBLIC'

Criticized for its failures, yet unable to reveal most successes, the CIA seems to be in a Catch-22 situation. But congressional oversight committees "can vouch for our good work," says CIA Director William H. Webster.

American Legion Magazine: Have congressional restrictions arising from the Iran-Contra investigation seriously weakened the CIA and its operations abroad?

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Q: So no major changes need to be made?

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Q: It has been said that you can have either covert operations or congressional oversight, but not both. Is that true?

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This doesn't mean that Congress tells us what to do or how to do it, but the oversight committees do have a consultative role. I think that we can work with them.

Q: Are you worried about leaks on Capitol Hill?

A: The more people who have to know about an operation, the more likely it is that there are going to be disclosures. Details on covert action and the identities of sources can be protected from normal congressional oversight. The intelligence committees' chairmen and vice chairmen have been quite helpful in keeping questions on those sensitive areas from becoming issues between us.

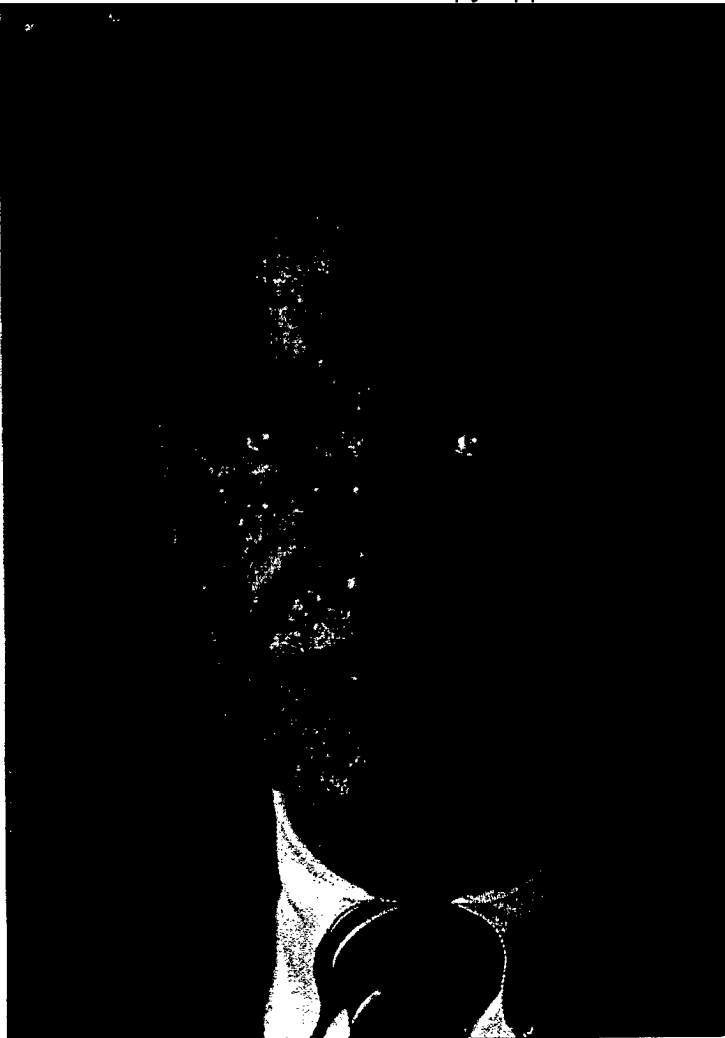
Q: Do you think covert operations are essential to U.S. security and interests?

A: Covert action is essential. Every president since Franklin Roosevelt has used it.

I want to emphasize that covert action represents less than 3 percent of our resources. But when we are called on to help an insurgent group that is seeking democratic progress in another country, or to protect a friendly country from hostile insurgent activities, it often is important that the role of the United States not be publicly known or acknowledged. Unless we are able to conduct covert operations, we cannot implement the foreign policy of this country on behalf of the insurgent movements and countries that we support.

Q: How can those operations be controlled so as to assure the public that they are in our interest and in accordance with our laws?

A: That's where the oversight committees come in. They are the surrogates for the American people and for the rest of Congress. We share important information with those committees; they then certify to Congress and the American



William H. Webster, a former director of the FBI, became director of the Central Intelligence Agency in May 1987.



people that we are doing what we should be doing, according to our Constitution.

Q: Are you concerned about CIA abuse of its powers?

A: I am not concerned about it, because I think it's very clear that we are conducting our work in accordance with our Constitution and our laws. Now, our laws don't follow us around the world, and we have to give some agents some flexibility. But those agents understand that everything they do must be in accordance with U.S. laws, executive orders and national-security directives.

Q: Why are people so afraid of covert operations?

A: Many people are afraid that any agency that conducts secret operations will do things that the public would not want it to do. It's a normal democratic suspicion of anything that is not open. But some things simply cannot be done in public, and collecting intelligence is one of them.

Q: The CIA has been called our front-line defense against the Soviet Union's undeclared war on America and other democracies. How is the CIA meeting this onslaught?

A: You are primarily talking about counterintelligence when you ask the question in that way. I think that the FBI has done an outstanding job of recognizing and dealing with hostile intelligence officers in this country. It is unfortunate that every time there is a successful counterintelligence

'CIA agents understand that everything they do must be in accordance with U.S. laws, orders and directives. **'**

effort, people wonder why it wasn't done sooner.

Around the world, the Soviets are seeking information from our embassies, our intelligence agencies and our military. It is our job, and that of the whole intelligence community, to provide greater protection for those who are defending our national security.

There is room for improvement. There have been some significant successes and some significant failures. The breach of security at our Moscow embassy is one of those failures. I have already reorganized our counterintelligence program for greater effectiveness and will support the counterintelligence work of the entire intelligence community.

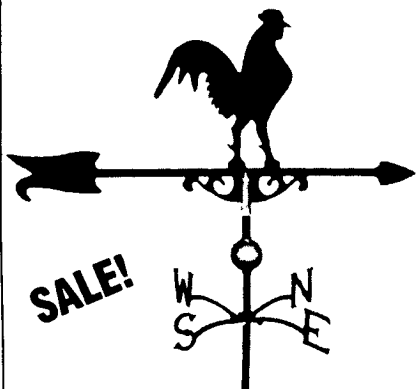
Q: How is the CIA doing in combating terrorism?

A: The CIA has an effective counterterrorism center. We have had some significant successes that we cannot talk about, for obvious reasons, and I am satisfied that we are going about it in the right way.

Q: Is terrorism increasing or decreasing?

Please turn to page 62

ART STEIN

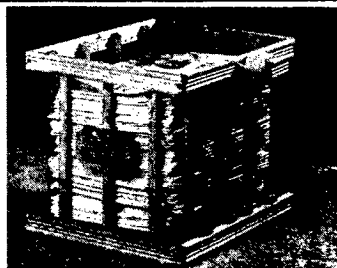
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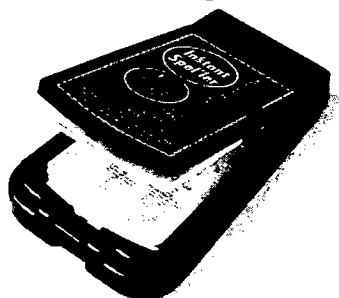
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INTERVIEW

Continued from page 25

A: Well, terrorism has increased slightly over the past couple of years, but it has increased enormously over the past 10 to 15 years. The number of deaths is going up.

The use of terrorism by nations — state-sponsored terrorism — represents a formidable challenge to this country and the rest of the Free World. It is a way to get a cheap victory. Terrorists are taking airplane passengers hostage, blowing up official facilities and assassinating people in key places around the world.

Twenty-five percent of terrorist incidents involve U.S. citizens, property or institutions, so we are getting it full-bore. We need to cooperate with other freedom-loving countries in a common front against terrorism. This front has solidified in the past two years. Some mistakes we made in the Iran-Contra affair weakened it, but I think we've patched that problem. We are again working with our European allies to eliminate sanctuary for terrorists.

Q: Under Mikhail Gorbachev, the Kremlin apparently has shifted from a policy of diplomacy by intimidation to a more cooperative stance. Is this real, or are we simply facing a new, dangerous form of diplomacy by deception?

A: Several factors go into *glasnost* and *perestroika* in the Soviet Union. Kremlin rhetoric seems to be more reasonable and more non-confrontational, but behind the rhetoric stands one of the world's most formidable military establishments. There is no indication that the Soviet Union's aspirations have changed in any way.

We would deceive ourselves if we thought that our ability to negotiate with Gorbachev represented the end of Soviet expansion objectives. We don't want to kid ourselves about that.

Q: Do you believe that we have sufficient intelligence-gathering ability in the Soviet Union to ensure adequate verification of arms-control agreements?

A: That, of course, has been the subject of intense study and debate. I believe that we could provide reasonable estimates on which the policy-makers can make sound judgments on the INF Treaty.

START represents a significantly more formidable challenge to us. Confidence-building provisions such as on-site inspection are being discussed, but we do not yet have the certainty that I think Congress will require before any such treaty could be ratified.

Q: There have been reports that the Soviets are preparing to violate the ABM Treaty by deploying a nationwide anti-ballistic-missile system. Do you have any way of verifying that?

A: I'm not in a position to comment on that.

Q: Does criticism of the CIA affect agents' morale and effectiveness?

No one likes to be criticized. But I

A: have been impressed not only by the quality of the men and women who work in this agency — by their dedication, courage and extraordinary gifts — but also by the quality of the young men and women who are electing to make intelligence their career. They are confident of the value of this work; they are comfortable with the difficulties that this work represents in their personal lives and the sacrifices that they are required to make. They are not bothered by criticism, because they know that the CIA is the "point man" for U.S. foreign policy. They see in this work not fame or fortune, but an opportunity to realize their highest aspirations for a safer and better world.

When you have that kind of outlook — not zealous or narrow, but with great capacity for intellectual growth — you understand that criticism comes with the territory.

Q: In a way, isn't being criticized a backhanded compliment to the agency?

A: I think so.

Q: What could Congress or the general public do to help the CIA do a better job of defending our way of life?

A: The congressional committees are in a position to reinforce the need for intelligence and to speak up for us, in terms of the quality of our work and our compliance with the laws. That would help.

We gave a thousand briefings to Congress last year. Some of our top people spend 25 percent of their time responding to congressional inquiries. If members of Congress would vouch for our good work, that might encourage the public to cooperate with us. □

ER 1610X-88



Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

William M. Baker
Director, Public Affairs
(703) 482-7676

18 April 1988

JUDGE:

SUBJECT: Interview and Picture Session with
Jim Sites, American Legion Magazine

Jim Sites, former Editor-in-Chief of the American Legion Magazine (ALM) and now a ALM contributing editor, will interview you at 1500 hours on 20 April in your office. He will have photographer Art Stein and Stein's assistant Jeff Granite with him.

ALM has eight million readers. Sites will give us final approval of whatever he writes from his interview with you. He will undoubtedly mention your having received the American Legion Distinguished Service Medal on 1 March 1988 from past National Commander James Dean.

Attached are copies of earlier interviews Sites did with you and with DCI Casey.

Bill Baker



P-308-11

The Synergy of Introduction...



About the Author...

Few people know America and its communications systems better than James N. Sites, who is President of his own Washington-based management counseling service, *James N. Sites & Associates*, and Senior Consultant to the nationwide public relations firm, *John Adams Associates*.

A veteran of 30-plus years in news reporting, government and public relations, Sites was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., spent four World War II years on 11 U.S. merchant ships, then graduated with honors in Journalism from Detroit's Wayne University.

Besides serving as an editor with *Business Week Magazine*, *Chrysler Corporation* publications and the *Whaley-Eaton Washington Newsletters*,

Sites has helped develop and implement some of the most significant U.S. PR campaigns, becoming a recognized authority in mobilizing public support for business' public policy objectives. His executive positions include Assistant Vice President for the *Association of American Railroads*, Vice President of the *Chemical Manufacturers Association*, Vice President in charge of the Washington office of the international PR consultants, *Carl Byoir & Associates*, Senior Vice President of the *National Association of Manufacturers* and President of NAM's foundation.

During the Ford Administration, Sites was Director of Public Affairs for the U.S. *Treasury Department* and personal aide to Treasury Secretary William E. Simon.

He is an Accredited Member of the Public Relations Society of America and a member of the President's Advisory Council. In 1962 he was selected the USA's Eisenhower Exchange Fellow and spent a year studying government policies in Europe, the Mideast and the Soviet Union.

The Scandinavian connection: The author's wife and working associate is Inger Krogh Sites, a native of Oslo and daughter of Norway's noted operasinger, the late Erling Krogh. One of the first exchange students to come to America after World War II, Mrs. Sites is a professional librarian who teaches Norwegian to U.S. diplomats at the State Department's Foreign Service Institute.

Current

In October 1983 Sites was also named Editor-in-Chief and Publisher of the Indianapolis-based **AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE**, the nationwide general-interest publication of the 2.8-million-member American Legion. Assigned to modernize the 66-year-old magazine, he reshaped its editorial focus and advertising policies, gave its graphics a "new look" and developed a new senior staff. In 1985 Sites returned full-time to his Washington base, where he continues working with **LEGION MAGAZINE** as a Contributing Editor, handling policy features and its "headliner" interview series. He is also Editor of **WINGS OF GOLD**, The Magazine of NAVAL Aviation.

James N. Sites & Associates



(From reprint of JNS byliner appearing in *Norwegian-American Commerce*)

(Spring 1983)

CLOSING IN ON CRIME

For two years the crime rate has declined, but the war goes on. "Right now we have great momentum," says FBI Director William H. Webster. "The important thing is to continue that effort." He tells how in this interview.

Legion Magazine: Mr. Webster, where do we stand regarding crime in the United States? Is the situation getting better or worse?

William Webster: Serious crimes in the United States—murder, arson, robbery, rape—showed a 3 percent reduction in 1982 from the previous year, and there was a 7 percent reduction in 1983. This is the first time since we began to collect comparative data that we have had two years of recorded declines in succession. The first six months of 1984 also reflect about a 5 percent decline compared with the first six months of 1983.

Q. What's the major reason for this improvement?

A. There are many factors that influence crime—even the

weather. For instance, we have consistently recorded the lowest crime rates in the first quarter of the year, when it's winter time; the third quarter is traditionally the high crime period, when more people are out on the street. Yet, a number of things can be cited as contributing to lower crime rates.

First is more effective law enforcement. There's never been a time in the 20 years I have been associated with law enforcement in one form or another that I can recall greater concerted efforts by law enforcement at all levels to deal with problems of major crimes.



Director of the FBI since 1978, William H. Webster earlier served as a U.S. District Attorney, U.S. Court of Appeals judge and Washington University Law School instructor.

Second, more severe sentences are being passed out, and fewer paroles are being given to repeat offenders. In other words, the people who account for more than a single crime are being put in prison and they're being kept there. We have the largest prison population in our history at the present time—over 400,000 people in prison. We're sorry to see that, but we're glad to see fewer incidents of early release of repeaters.

A third factor, which undoubtedly has some influence on crime but is overblown by too many, is the demographic factor—the passage of the baby boom through the period of 19 to 24, when most crimes are committed.

A final important factor has been the emergence of effective citizens' groups determined to be part of the process of dealing with crime. America has often seen vigilante groups, but what we really need are vigilant citizens.

And we're getting them. We're now seeing groups like the Crime Stoppers sharing information, providing important resources and avenues for information to flow into the criminal justice system, giving us leads that we need to make our criminal cases.

Q. What can citizens do to help prevent crime?

A. We focus initially on making the community aware of what law enforcement is all about—helping citizens get better acquainted with their local law-enforcement agencies, making sure that those agencies are seen by their citizens as being part of, and not outside, their communities. These are not hired guns. They are fellow citizens serving you.

Citizens then become more comfortable with and supportive of law-enforcement agencies. That means more information will pass from these citizens to our nation's law-enforcement agencies.

We can't enforce laws in a vacuum. We need information. We need cooperation. We need the willingness of citizens who are witnesses to crimes to be prepared not only to give the information but, in many cases, to act as witnesses. Before they'll do that, they need the confidence that the police are going forward. That there will be prosecution. That it's worth their support.

Q. Can people hope to see the downtrend in crime statistics continue?

A. Hope comes cheap . . . but in reality the momentum is there. As long as this level of citizen cooperation continues, as long as we continue the heavy emphasis on training at all levels of law enforcement, keeping ahead of the state of the art on crime, identifying crime trends and moving out to meet them, instead of simply reacting after the situation becomes intolerable, I think we have a very good chance to keep that chart line going down.

Q. How about the quality of the individual law-enforcement agent?

A. There's a rising level of professionalism among those coming into our ranks. In the FBI, all of our special agents are college graduates, and we subject them to an on-going program of in-service training. We're utilizing modern technology—lasers, computers, modern scientific forensic technology. This type of capability attracts an increasingly able group of young men and women.

Our mission also has tremendous job satisfaction. You're doing something for your community. You're doing something for your country. You're serving justice. And young men and women of ability and patriotism and idealism are logically attracted to what we're doing.

Q. You're always involved in a race with the criminal. As you get better, he gets more elusive. Who's ahead?

A. We're certainly running apace with the most advanced criminal techniques. This is especially true as we get a better handle on such crimes as the misuse of the computer and the illegal electronic transfer of funds. The real challenge out there now is not so much the individual criminal, but the criminal enterprise—whether it's a terrorist group, espionage agents operating in this country, the narcotics cartels or the traditional Mafia crime families. Our challenge has been to disrupt the enterprise and its distribution

network and put these criminals in prison—not just those who are doing the higher-ups' bidding, but the higher-ups themselves. I've been working at that ever since I came to the FBI.

Q. What about drugs? Do you think you can ever really hope to come to grips with growing drug traffic?

A. Yes, I do, but it is a many-faceted challenge, and we need to win in each of the facets to be successful. We need to improve our clout with source countries. We need to win their cooperation in reducing the amount of contraband produced in their countries and shipped here. That's perhaps the most effective action we can take.

The next challenge lies in interdiction. We're improving our capacity to stop it enroute or to seize it at our borders.

The third phase, one in which the FBI is primarily occupied, is to break up the apparatus for distribution of narcotics inside our country. Seizure is important, but we could seize 75 percent of the drugs and still they would pour in as long as the capacity to distribute is in the country.

Step number four is equal to all the others. We must reduce demand. Law enforcement can approach the problem of supply, but as long as people want drugs, people will manage to obtain them. I see some very healthy signs on

"We had 100 terrorist bombings in 1977. By October last year, we had 8."



the horizons here. For instance, marijuana has been shown to be harmful to health, and consumption among the young is going down.

Q. Does the growing acceptance of narcotics among more wealthy citizens affect your ability to control the drug problem?

A. Yes, and that tolerance is at least partly the result of ignorance of the magnitude and scope of the damage done to our country by the presence of drugs. Drugs generate violent crime in a society. They corrupt officials at all levels. And, then, there's the worst consequence of drug usage—the damage to our children. There is no use talking about drugs in moderation. It just doesn't happen.

Q. What about the Mafia? Can you ever really hope to come to grips with such well-organized and deeply entrenched crime groups?

A. We are coming to grips with them. The Mafia has had for many years a heavy commitment in the flow of narcotics. They always pretended they weren't interested in that sort of thing, but that's a myth. We've established those connections beyond any possible doubt.

Perhaps it's our fault for not tooting our horn enough, but we have been indicting and convicting top players in organized crime for years. I don't think there is a major

FBI PROFILE

The FBI's fiscal year 1985 budget of \$1.1 billion—the first time the agency exceeded a billion dollars—supports about 20,000 employees, including 8,875 special agents in 59 U.S. field offices and Puerto Rico, and 13 foreign liaison offices covering 85 nations.

Criminal activities under FBI purview include violations of more than 200 federal statutes, organized and white-collar crime, kidnappings, terrorism and foreign counter-intelligence. The FBI also works with the Drug Enforcement Administration and many other law enforcement agencies throughout the nation.

Referred to at one time as "G-Men," the FBI began in 1908 when President Theodore Roosevelt ordered the creation of an office of chief examiner for the Department of Justice, which evolved into the Federal Bureau of Investigation on July 1, 1935.

The FBI plans to hire 300 special agents in fiscal year 1985 and 1,300 support employees.

In the bureau's 76 years of service, 26 special agents have been killed in the line of duty.

crime family in the United States that has not experienced our aggressive investigation and prosecution. A Los Angeles "family" was wiped out in one case—as was another family in Cleveland and another in Denver. We've identified organized crime leaders in Las Vegas and obtained convictions there. Top players in Kansas City have been convicted. In Chicago we have both indictments and convictions coming in. Among New York families we are working hard to neutralize their effectiveness. We have a number of top "godfather" figures under indictment. Organized crime knows now we mean business.

Q. How do you feel about legalized gambling. Is that a factor in encouraging crime?

A. Well, in my position, I hesitate to take moral positions on legislative issues. But I pointed out at the time that Atlantic City was going into casinos that we knew of no situation in which legalized gambling was in place where we did not eventually have organized crime. Crime doesn't always show up in the same way. In Atlantic City organized crime influence is coming through the control of goods and services. It's different from the "skimming" we've seen in Las Vegas. We're also seeing evidence of corruption as organized crime tries to reach the gaming commission through other state officials.

So I really don't see how one can expect to run legalized gambling anywhere without serious problems—fraudulent tickets, counterfeit lottery processes. Any time organized crime sees an opportunity to put a fix on something, to get an edge on something, it'll be there. And gambling is still the largest source of revenue for organized crime.

"Gambling continues to be the largest source of revenue for organized crime."



Q. More than the drug traffic?

A. More in dollars but not necessarily in profit. The profit margin in narcotics is very high.

Q. What about government involvement in lotteries?

A. Well, the argument is always made that we should give the poor people a little hope. But the probabilities of winning on a lottery ticket are so miniscule that it has to be called a false hope. The states really have to think seriously about what they are doing to their own citizens when they push for something like that.

Q. What about terrorism? Is there any possibility that this could become as serious a problem within the United States as it is outside?

A. We're taking terrorism seriously. Forty percent of all the terrorist incidents outside the United States in the past five years have been directed against U.S. persons or U.S. property. Now, I don't believe that terrorism will ever

find fertile soil in the United States. But that doesn't mean it can't happen here or won't happen here. That's why we worked so very hard for six years to prepare for the Los Angeles Olympics—to be sure we had an Olympics free from terrorists from outside our country using us when the eyes of the world were watching us. And nothing happened.

I'd like to call attention to the record. When I first came here almost seven years ago, we were averaging about 100 political and terrorist bombings a year. In 1982 the number was 51. In 1983, it was 31. By October last year, 8.

Q. How was that done?

A. Better intelligence and more aggressive efforts to identify terrorists and to put them into jail.

Q. What about counter-espionage—dealing with the communists' KGB? What are you doing about that?

A. This is an area where I cannot record success in terms of reducing the problems. We have had singular successes in the past few years in identifying foreign intelligence officers and either having them expelled if they're protected by diplomatic immunity or prosecuted if not. And we've increased our counter-intelligence agents. Yet, we are confronted with an increasingly hostile intelligence presence in the United States. There are simply more people coming in here with intelligence task missions than we can cope with. The president and Congress have increased our resources in this area dramatically. But as long as we continue to receive large numbers of communist diplomats, tourists, trade missions and students, we're going to have a major espionage problem on our hands.



Q. What's needed to fight that battle more effectively?

A. We're getting the resources. We have reached about 12,000 companies possessing classified information or doing business with the government to increase their sensitivity to recruitment attempts and efforts to buy information from employees.

Q. What about the future of your fight against crime?

A. The future depends on the present. Right now we have a tremendous momentum of support. A huge crime package was adopted by Congress last year. Additional resources have been made available and are being properly built into the system. There is a strong relationship between state, local and federal agencies. Citizens are concerned and are taking action. The important thing is to continue that concerted effort.

At no time in my lifetime have I ever seen the various segments of our society working so well together on law enforcement. We mustn't quit now. The heat *must* stay on. □

CIA: Confronting "Undeclared War"

Guerrilla action, political upheaval, economic subversion and disinformation are among the many tactics being used against the Free World by the forces of international Communism. In this exclusive interview, America's intelligence chief, CIA Director William J. Casey, assesses how the US is faring in this battle.



Legion Magazine: Mr. Casey, what are the critical intelligence problems of the 1980s as you see them?

Director Casey: First and foremost is the ever-growing military power of the Soviet Union. Second is the destabilization and subversion of countries around the world by a combination of the Soviet Union and its Cuban, Vietnamese, Ethiopian and Libyan proxies. Third are terrorist activities that are increasingly sponsored by the Communists and radical Arab states like Iran and Libya for foreign policy purposes. Then, there's the deep unrest of all those captive peoples under the Soviet yoke, like the Poles. The Arab states around the Mediterranean and the states having proximity to the Persian Gulf present a hornet's nest of intelligence problems. The list is lengthy.

Q. Is all this a scenario for eventual open conflict?

A. I'm afraid that too few people in a peaceful place like America understand the real nature of what's going on around the world. The hard fact is, we are confronted with an undeclared war by the forces of international Communism as well as some radical Arab states. Terrorism has reached a stage where the distinction between war and peace is often obscured. The Soviet Union's KGB is waging constant warfare against the US, using techniques of propaganda, disinformation and other so-called "active measures" such as stealing or otherwise improperly acquiring our best technology; destabilizing weak governments; undermining trade and national economies, and providing weapons and training to insurgents who seek to overthrow non-Communist governments. At the same time, the Soviets seek to build an overwhelming military power that can be used to intimidate others and make political gains.

Q. What's the main hope for countering these forces around the world?

A. The CIA is the one worldwide force that can cope with the tactics practiced in this undeclared war. Other countries have effective intelligence and security agencies. By working closely with them, by sharing information and technological capabilities, we have mounted an effective worldwide counter-force. Hence, the KGB and its auxiliaries—the East Europeans, the Cubans, the Vietnamese, the Nicaraguans—apply increasing amounts of manpower, money and subversive skills in an effort to destroy us and our capabilities.

Q. How is this undeclared war going?

A. I think we are doing better. Over the years, the Communists were very successful in supporting guerrilla action and destabilizing and overthrowing governments. Communists came into control in Ethiopia, Angola, Nicaragua and, of course, in Cuba and Vietnam. In the past couple of years, however, they've been encountering increasing resistance. People in these countries are less willing to take Communist oppression lying down. They are more aware of what the Communists are really up to, and there is growing resistance to it.

Q. Much has been heard about the operations of the KGB and others in stealing our industrial secrets. How damaging is this espionage work?

A. Soviet industrial espionage is a serious problem. Through KGB operations, America ends up contributing indirectly to the build-up, the accuracy and precision of Soviet weapons which, in effect, finds us competing with our own technology. This has forced us to make budget-

busting appropriations to come up with more adequate defense forces. However, we now fully recognize the problem and are doing a better counter-espionage job. Last year well over 100 Soviet agents were arrested, kicked out or defected around the world, most of them engaged in stealing technology.

Q. Why do we tolerate all these agents within the US, including those disguised as diplomatic personnel?

A. Well, we don't just tolerate them. The FBI is responsible for combatting Soviet espionage inside the US. The Soviets certainly have more agents in this country than we have in theirs. We work very hard to put them out of business and are having a fairly good success rate. Yet, sometimes it is better to watch what they are doing for a while, to see what else is out there, instead of immediately grabbing and deporting them.

Q. How successful is the West in prying critical information out of the USSR?

A. The reality we face is asymmetry in the availability of information. In our open society anybody can get lots of information. Their society is closed and their data is closely held. That's the nature of the beast and it makes our job a lot tougher. On the other hand, openness in the US is the source of our vitality. Here, people can build, exchange and acquire knowledge without hindrance. The Soviets pay a steep price for their restricted freedom in the form of a deadening internal climate. But I'm sure they won't change their ways, so our task will remain challenging.

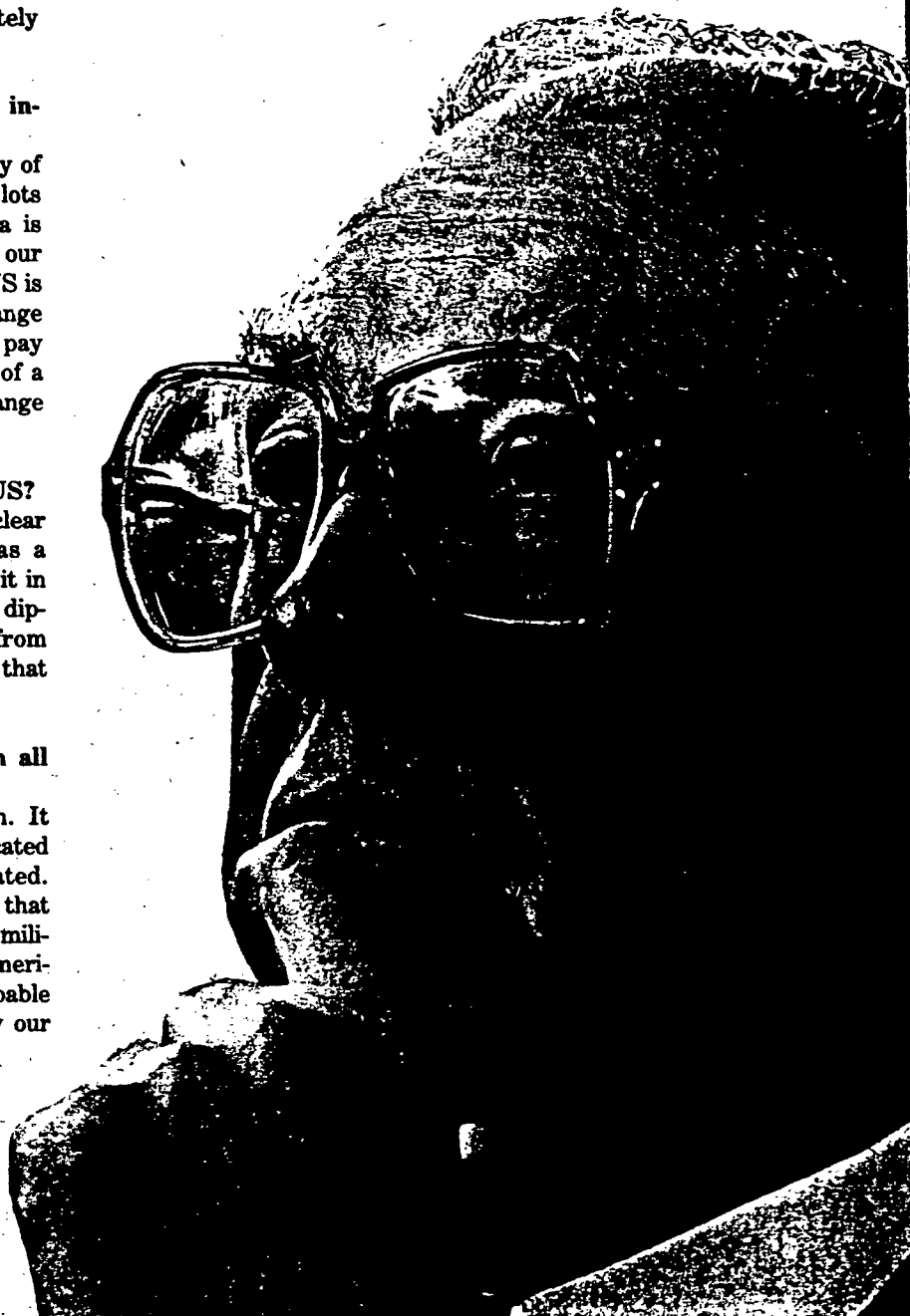
Q. How serious a threat is terrorism within the US?

A. Well, it's a very serious threat worldwide. It is clear that some countries have adopted terrorism as a cheap and inexpensive foreign policy weapon, and use it in assorted ways to create diplomatic upheaval. American diplomatic institutions have already suffered deeply from terrorism—as, for instance, in Lebanon—and I think that we will see more of it abroad and here in America.

Q. Is the CIA adequately equipped to deal with all these problems?

A. The CIA is a capable, hard-hitting organization. It was developed over 36 years ago by truly dedicated people. It is staffed today by people just as dedicated. There is a whole range of technical and security needs that can be handled only by the CIA—and, along with the military and other intelligence agencies making up the American intelligence community, we do have the people capable of gathering and analyzing the information needed by our policymakers in Washington.

"Soviet espionage is a serious problem. Through KGB operations, America ends up contributing indirectly to the build-up, accuracy and precision of Soviet weapons which, in effect, finds us competing with our own technology."



William J. Casey, who served in the OSS in WWII, is a former chairman of the Securities & Exchange Commission and the Export-Import Bank. He was named CIA director in 1981.

JUNE 1984

CIA

Q. Any particular areas which need strengthening?

A. Of course. Intelligence is by no means a perfect science. In the '70s the intelligence budget was cut some 40 percent, and numbers of people reduced by 50 percent. Now, we're rebuilding our capabilities. Advanced technical systems have given us the ability to get a lot of information that we couldn't before, and we get information faster and in larger quantities. The problem, increasingly, is being able to *process* the information—to analyze it so that people can understand and use it. To cope with this enormous intake, we've hired many computer and information experts.

In this connection, I might mention that the CIA is not looking for spies; we're looking for *patriots*, friends and supporters—for people who understand the endless difference between human freedom and totalitarianism and who are willing to put themselves on the line for the things we in America believe in.

Q. What roles do you carry out as head of our overall intelligence community?

A. I wear three hats. First, I am the President's principal intelligence adviser. I'm also charged with coordinating the intelligence community, which includes CIA, the Department of State, Defense, Treasury, Energy and the FBI; that is, the nation's whole intelligence apparatus, including military intelligence and specialized activities. And thirdly, I head the CIA itself. For the most part, the various components of the intelligence community work together. Having access to all areas of intelligence lets us develop a more thorough assessment of facts.

Q. Why did the CIA lose that support in the '70s?

A. Support was lost in the '70s because there was a lot of misinformation put out about misconduct in intelligence activities. With few exceptions, those allegations turned out to be false. Yet, while the charges would appear on the front pages of newspapers, the corrections or denials would appear on the back pages. These charges also became political issues, and news people and others were tempted to sensationalize them. Now all that has finally died down. We reached a turning point when responsible members of Congress took pains to set the record straight and to develop an oversight process that restored confidence in the way the CIA operates. Then the present administration came in and showed that it valued and supported sound intelligence activities. All this had the effect of rebuilding internal morale, and we've really been on the upswing ever since.

Q. Mr. Casey, what about leaks of intelligence on what the CIA is doing, particularly through Freedom of Information Act requests: Is this a problem and, if so, what should be done about it?

A. The publicizing of secret and classified information is highly damaging. It's damaging to the tremendous effort that goes into getting people to help us around the world. The Freedom of Information Act makes people abroad wonder whether we can protect their anonymity if they agree to help us. We need relief from that burden so we can regain their confidence and restore the capabilities we had before.

Q. What kind of relief?

A. A bill is before Congress that would make our operational files exempt from Freedom of Information Act requests. We can now withhold information that is classified, but we are required by the law to laboriously search our files anyway. This means using experienced case officers to make judgments as to the jeopardy we would be putting our operations and people in if we released the information. That's a great waste of talent. At times as many as 4-to-5 percent of our best people are going over our operational files and searching—sometimes because of frivolous requests. If they were not tied up doing this, they would be out on the firing line developing intelligence, our real mission. Also, the fact that our operational files would no longer be subject to search and exposure would be of considerable comfort to those people who would otherwise work with us, but who are worried about their personal safety and whether we in this country can keep secrets.

Q. Do the American people have adequate checks against the possibility of CIA misusing its powers, especially in covert operations?

A. There's an oversight process that is carefully and diligently exercised by the Congress and it works to assure that the things we undertake are reported to our oversight committees and subject to their scrutiny. I think that's the best protection of all. It's certainly better than hoping to piece information together from old documents on events long past that come from FOIA requests.

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The CIA operates from this headquarters in Langley, Va.

Then, as a Cabinet officer, I get an insight into policy deliberations. This is very important in determining what is critical and what we must focus on in producing the most relevant intelligence.

Q. Do you have any problems in getting support from the White House and Congress?

A. No. We have received strong support from both this administration and from Congress. We have had considerable increases in our budget and other resources, which is essential to our rebuilding effort.

CIA

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Q. Have you had problems with leaks on Capitol Hill?

A. Occasionally, but I consider that part of the process. It is not something that happens often. And the record shows that such leaks usually are unintentional.

Q. Since the CIA can only operate abroad, does this make it more difficult to counter terrorism and espionage *within* the US?

A. There is very close and effective cooperation between the CIA and FBI. We pick up a lot of information abroad. We get advance notice about who is coming in and why they are coming. We pass this data on to the FBI and they take over from there. The FBI, like every organization, has problems but it's doing a good job. It has increased the number of agents, its resources and its technical capabilities to deal with the rising threat of hostile intelligence and terrorist threats. It isn't only the Soviets who steal our secrets, by the way. The East bloc countries do a lot of it for them. The FBI has to handle all such problems in this country.

Q. We repeatedly hear that the Russian people, including many of that nation's officials, are fed up with Communism. Should we be doing anything to encourage more defections?

A. Sure we should. The Soviets have lost agents through defection and others have been expelled—more lately than in a very long time. I think to some extent that has been caused by cooperation and effective work among the intelligence services of the western world.

Q. Does Andropov's death and Chernenko's appointment portend any real change in Soviet behavior?

A. Only that the older leadership is still not prepared to see power go to the next generation. Also, you must recognize that the Communists rule by a committee or group system. Who's on top seems to have made little difference since the days of Stalin.

Q. What do you consider the primary weakness of the Soviet system?

A. The rigidity and ineffectiveness of their bureaucratic control system and the stifling effect that has on the Russian people and their economic and social systems. This is overlaid on intense demographic problems—a large and rapidly growing percentage of non-Slavic Soviet peoples do not fully identify with the Soviet state or the ruling elite.

"Communists rule by a committee system. Who's on top [has] made little difference since Stalin."

Q. Do you see any real hope of Communist Russia ever abandoning its goals of world domination, or finally getting together with us and trying to achieve some kind of peaceful settlement of our differences?

A. It would be very difficult to identify any time when that might happen. Of course, you hope and pursue whatever possibilities open up. We hope their sanity will return one day and that they will see the folly of simply building up huge armaments and turn, instead, to joining us in building a better world. □

CIA Director Casey during interview with Legion Magazine's editor-in-chief.



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